

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam and Portland

Volume 42, Number 41

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

July 20, 2018



Bridget Oei of Hebron is the new Miss Connecticut. She'll compete for the national Miss America title this fall in Atlantic City, N.J.

There She Is, Miss Connecticut

by Sloan Brewster

One of Hebron's own has been crowned Miss Connecticut and will compete for the title of Miss America.

Bridget Oei was crowned last month at the Miss Connecticut Pageant 2018 at the Palace Theater in Waterbury. Oei, who has only been competing in pageants for the past three years, qualified for the competition by winning the Miss Mountain Laurel competition in May.

By winning Miss Connecticut, Oei, a 22-year old University of Connecticut environmental chemistry graduate, also won \$17,000 toward graduate school and is planning on pursuing medicine.

The competition stretched a full week, beginning with a private interview with judges and then there was the talent competition, Oei said. Oei has been a competitive Irish step dancer for most of her life, and used that for her talent.

For the swimsuit competition, she and her fellow contestants wore the same Kandace Pelletier-designed suit "to kind of even the playing field," she said.

"It was fun, that one," she said. "You just get to go strut your stuff."

However, Oei said she has no qualms about the recent decision to remove the swimsuit portion from the national Miss America competition, which takes place in Atlantic City, N.J.,

this fall. Gretchen Carlson, chairwoman of the Miss America board of directors, told ABC in June, "We will no longer judge our candidates on their outward physical appearance."

Oei said she is excited to be a part of this new Miss America experience.

"You can't be afraid of change," she said. "We're going to make history up there."

For the gown portion of the competition, Oei wore something simple.

"Culturally, I'm half-Irish and half-Chinese," she said. "I love to nod to both cultures."

She nods to her Irish side with her Irish step dancing but it's the color of her gown that speaks to her Chinese side.

"For evening gown choices, I've always worn red. That is quintessentially a very lucky color in Chinese culture," she said. "It was very, very simple. ... I mean, there wasn't even a bead or a sparkle on it."

Oei said she favors simplicity because it lets the person shine without being overpowered by her attire.

When it came time for her onstage question, Oei was asked if, in today's society, technology was helpful or a threat.

"It can be both," she said.

While social media connects people to a larger network, it comes with responsibility and it's up to everyone to make sure it is safe, she

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Portland PZC Approves Medical Marijuana Facility

by Elizabeth Regan

The Portland Planning and Zoning Commission has endorsed a plan to open a new medical marijuana facility near the intersection of Route 66 and High Street.

Now it's up to the state Department of Consumer Protection to decide if it will award one of the coveted medical marijuana dispensary licenses in the town that some already refer to by the nickname "Potland."

State Department of Consumer Protection spokeswoman Lora Rae Anderson said the agency received 73 applications, which will be considered for up to 10 new dispensary licenses in Connecticut. The selections will be announced at some point this fall, she said.

"The process takes a fair amount of time because the applications are incredibly detailed, and we want to get careful consideration to everyone," Anderson said Wednesday.

There are currently nine licensed dispensaries in the state. The facilities closest to Portland are in Hartford, Bristol and Milford.

There are also four facilities dedicated to producing the state's medical marijuana. One of them is Connecticut Pharmaceutical Solutions, which currently operates in Portland near the base of the Arrigoni Bridge at 47 Lower Main St.

The Portland Planning and Zoning Commission last Thursday voted 4-0 to approve a special permit application from Rosario Agostino,

owner of a newly-constructed commercial building on 185 Marlborough St. The proposed medical marijuana dispensary will be operated by Mountain Laurel Living LLC.

The commission in April approved an amendment to zoning regulations that added medical marijuana dispensaries to the list of permitted uses in the zone covering the more built-out sections of Route 66.

Mountain Laurel Living, represented by investor Jerry Farrell Jr. at last Thursday's public hearing, also put in applications for dispensaries in the cities of Meriden and Newington.

Anderson said the Department of Consumer Protection selection guidelines do not prohibit a company from getting a license for more than one dispensary.

"Ultimately, our goal is to select the best medical facilities possible," she said.

The Portland dispensary would be overseen by Jalpa Patel, a pharmacist who currently owns Brass Mill Pharmacy in Waterbury. Her husband, Mitul Patel, serves as the facility's security expert.

Farrell told reporters the site fills a need for more coverage in this part of the state.

The only dispensary east of the Connecticut River is in Uncasville, which is roughly 40 miles from Portland.

"You have decent highways here. [Route] 66

takes in an awful lot of communities fairly quickly," Farrell said.

There are currently 1,579 medical marijuana patients in Middlesex County, according to the state consumer protection department. Nearby Hartford County has 6,405 medical marijuana cardholders, while New London County has 2,893.

Mitul Patel has said the statewide total – which is currently at 26,157 – grows by about 100 patients every week.

Demand Grows Amid Strict Regulation

The proposed dispensary building sits on 0.38 acres. The site was grandfathered into current zoning regulations, which require a 1-acre minimum. It has 16 parking spaces.

Farrell told commissioners the locked facility is accessible during business hours by appointment only, with no more than three patients on site at any given time.

"The patient cannot just drop in to the dispensary, but must have a prearranged appointment. This significantly limits how many people will be at the dispensary at any one time," Farrell said.

A conference room allows for after-hours sales presentations for small groups of medical professionals, he said.

Some officials, including Economic Development Commission Chairman Elwin Guild,

have raised concerns that allowing a medical marijuana dispensary in town could automatically open the door to a retail pot shop if state lawmakers decide to legalize recreational marijuana.

Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Bruce Tyler has emphasized that any proposal to transition from a medical marijuana facility to a retail shop would be a "change in use" that would require its own permit.

Mountain Laurel Living representatives have also maintained the small lot wouldn't be able to accommodate a retail marijuana shop.

Investor Dave Smith said in April that switching from a medical marijuana dispensary to a retail facility is not in the business plan.

"The fact is that this site is self-limiting because if you were to have a business where scores and scores of people needed access, as an owner you would not want to have it on that site," Smith said.

A bill to legalize and regulate the retail sale of marijuana made it out of the state legislature's Appropriations Committee in April, but never got to the floor of the House or Senate for a vote.

The Planning and Zoning Commission's public hearing on the special permit application for the dispensary yielded no questions or comments from the handful of residents in attendance.



As Miss Connecticut, Oei will focus on inspiring young women to get involved with STEM, or Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. She's pictured here at a recent STEM event held on the campus of Central Connecticut State University.

Miss Connecticut cont. from Front Page

explained. "It's the users who use it that can be a threat," she said. "It's really the people behind that really matter."

Since getting her crown, Oei has travelled to an average of five towns per day. She has visited sponsors, including McDermott Chevrolet in East Haven, which gave her a Chevy Cruze to drive for the year.

For the service aspect of her role as Miss Connecticut, Oei makes regular visits to Connecticut Children's Medical Center and does fundraising and raises awareness for the children's hospital.

Last week was her first visit. Oei said she was struck by the children's reactions to her and that she enjoyed being able to make their day.

"I didn't think I'd make the impact that I did," she said.

Oei also attended a blood drive organized by a young outpatient. With a shared concern for the children's hospital, the duo had a great interchange, Oei said.

"She's a young girl really making an impact in her community," Oei said. "I was very excited to go visit her and see the work that she's doing."

Oei has also gone to events to spread the word of her theme for her year as Miss Connecticut, which will focus on Science, Technology, En-

gineering, and Mathematics [STEM].

Her exact theme is women in STEM inspiring the next generation of innovators.

She went to a STEM event at Central Connecticut State University and one at the Goddard School in Farmington.

Oei said she hopes to be a resource for girls interested in STEM and "to ignite them."

She is not the only woman in her family into STEM. Her sister Theresa – who was a cheerleader for the New England Patriots when they most recently won the Super Bowl in 2017 – is studying for her PhD in biochemistry at Harvard.

Oei said she credits her parents for her and her sister's successes in science and the arts, as well as a desire to give back to the community.

"I think it's very interesting, my parents have instilled in me that you have to be a well-rounded person," she said. "My siblings and I have taken that and run with it."

Oei has already gone to Florida and met with Regalia Gowns to choose the gown she will wear in the Miss America competition. She would not give away anything about it, however.

"I'm happy with it and it's super beautiful," she said.

The Miss America competition airs live Sunday, Sept. 9, on ABC.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I caught my first ad for the governor's race on TV the other day.

It features Ned Lamont driving around, mentioning that he recently turned 64, so he's not looking at being governor as a stepping stone. Nor is he going to run for reelection, or take a salary. He's not even going to take a government car. "This one's going to do just fine," he says, proudly thumping the steering wheel.

"The middle class has taken a hit for years," he goes on to say. "Maybe it's time for your governor to give back as well."

Lamont closes the 30-second spot saying, "Honestly, I can't turn around the state in year one, but you're sure as heck gonna know where we're going."

Yep, he said "sure as heck."

Combine Lamont's words with his choice of clothing – a light blue dress shirt with the top button undone and the sleeves partly rolled up – and it's pretty clear Lamont is trying to appeal to the common man here. As the *Hartford Courant* said, he "set out to debunk the limousine liberal caricature that his rival Joe Ganim has been trying to paint" – and I hope he succeeded.

It also felt to me in the spot, by some of the things Lamont was saying and the promises he was making, that he was looking to appeal to Republicans, or independents that lean Republican, as well. This would be a sound move, as Democrats face a huge uphill climb to retain the governor's seat this fall.

It was a nice ad. It was a little cheesy and a little hokey, but that kind of added to its appeal. It had this kinda-dorky home-spun charm. I hope it helped to win him some voters, or at least prompt people to take another look at him.

I certainly hope it prompted on-the-fence Democrats to do so. The primary is just a few weeks away, and Ganim isn't going away. The worst thing for the Democrats is for Ganim to win on Primary Day. Like I said, the Dems have a foreboding task ahead of them, and I think if Ganim becomes the candidate it all but guarantees a GOP win in November.

A man convicted in federal court on 16 felony counts running for governor? The attack ads practically write themselves.

As for the current governor, Dannel Malloy, he Tuesday ordered a \$10 million study on possible tolls on Connecticut highways – and, while I know I may be in the minority, I applaud the move.

According to NBC Connecticut, the study will research the possible environmental impact of tolls on several highways – including interstates 95, 91 and 84, as well as the Wilbur Cross and Merritt parkways.

The study would also look at the possibility of giving state residents a discount or tax credit – and reducing or maybe even eliminating the gas tax.

I know not a lot of people like the idea of tolls, and goodness knows I'm not exactly chomping at the bit to give away more of my money, but the state's coffers are in pretty dire straits. This could help. With the new electronic transponders, like the ones in Massachusetts and New York, toll booths wouldn't be necessary – greatly diminishing the likelihood of that horrific fatal toll booth crash in 1983 from ever happening again.

And if we give discounts to in-state residents like you and me? That would make it even more palatable. Massachusetts and New York also offer its residents breaks when it comes to the tolls.

People pass through our state countless times a day. They have to pay tolls when they enter Massachusetts, and when they enter New York. Heck, even Rhode Island's gotten in on the fun, as it recently started charging tractor-trailers tolls on Interstate 95. We're essentially throwing money away by not having tolls.

That's my opinion anyway. This study Malloy ordered may prove it's a horrible idea. But let's at least find out.

The study "doesn't mean tolls are going to happen," state Rep. Tony Guerrero (D-29) told NBC Connecticut. "All this is is just a plan and whether the general assembly would like to implement the plan or not."

The state Bond Commission will vote on funding the study next week, on July 25. I hope the commission approves it. Like I said, let's at least give the idea of tolls a look.

See you next week.

Colebrook Village Up and Running in Hebron

by Sloan Brewster

Colebrook Village, a large new senior housing facility that marks one of the first major developments in Hebron's Village Green District, is now open – and folks have been moving in.

A ribbon-cutting was held last Thursday at the 113-unit, 113,630 square-foot building, which is nestled in the Village Green District on John E. Horton Boulevard behind CVS. There will be a large grand opening in September for investors.

The Village Green District is a 130-acre parcel in the center of town owned by the Horton Brothers LLC. The area was rezoned in 2000 to mixed-use to encourage economic development in town, and town officials have been working to bring development to the area ever since.

At the new facility's groundbreaking last year, Town Planner Mike O'Leary said the development may serve as an important "anchor" in the Village Green District, and create demand for some additional retail and services uses in the area.

As of this past Wednesday, the facility had 29 residents. When it opened on May 29, four apartments filled and five people moved in.

The new tenants "are true pioneers because, just like every other pioneer effort, they have had to wait while we go through growing efforts," Executive Director Pamela Krist Atwood said.

There have been small challenges – such as getting air conditioners up and running and discovering they didn't have enough staff to feed all the residents of the facility.

As folks moved in, staff made changes to improve the process, such as installing a bell captain's cart and designating an area with cones where movers come and go to avoid damaging the carpets.

Residents seemed to be thrilled to be moving in, according to Atwood.

"We think that moving to senior living is something that people dread or regret," she said. "Every single resident – and we have 29 right now – has moved in with excitement and glee."

George Johnson, who moved in July 1, said he has been enjoying his new digs. Johnson said he has lived alone for the past three years, as his wife has advanced Alzheimer's disease and is in Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation Center, and he simply wanted to be around people.

"I lived alone and I could talk to the cat, but the cat never talked back," he said. "I like to have people around, to be involved."

Johnson said he is working on getting to know everyone's names. He has enjoyed activities, including playing bridge, cribbage, pool and watched a movie in the facility theater.

A vegan, Johnson said staff accommodates his dietary requirements and also those of others with special diets, such as gluten-free and no salt.

"The management and staff here are selected for their congeniality, their compassion, their loving kindness – and those are attributes that I'm very cognizant of as I study the Buddhist philosophy," Johnson said.

The first two nights, Atwood slept over in her office on a cot and mattress pad – although "sleep" may not be exactly the right word.

"I didn't sleep the first night, I pretty much just sat here clutching the [staff] radio," she said.

A successful start, the facility met several goals in the early days after opening, including no 911 calls the first week, Atwood said.

"I had promised [emergency responders] that that's what we're here for, we assist seniors," she said.

When medical alert necklaces and bracelets are triggered, the call goes to the internal system so staff can immediately assist.

Every morning, Atwood drives around the property to see how everything looks. Inside, she begins the day with a "huddle-up meeting" in which managers discuss safety issues and make sure they have all they will need for a safe day.

"I remind them that this is a job," Atwood said. "It's an important job, but they have to protect their energy because we could all sleep here overnight and still have things to do."

The staff is like a family and she wants them to remember to care for themselves, she said.

"We leave with a hug," she said. "We hug everybody, we hug families, we hug each other."

Staff families join resident for many activities, including next Thursday's "S'mores Night," at which Atwood plans to lead everyone in camp songs.

Some of the youth volunteers who spend time with residents are children of staff, including 10-year-old Ava Archer of East Hampton, whose mother works there.

"I like helping and spending time with the residents," she said. "They're just like sweet and nice."



At Colebrook Village, teenage volunteers often spend time with the facility's residents, playing cards and other games with them. Here, teens Isabella Deslauriers (back right) and Charlotte Atwood (front right) play a game of Uno with Joyce Lance (back left) and Jean Brewer (front left).

Currently, there are seven kids that volunteer at the facility, ranging in age from 10 to 18, Atwood said.

"They do everything from letting the seniors teach them how to knit or bake, to playing set-back, chess and bridge and cribbage," she said.

They also do pet visits, take walks outside, read to residents and do activities, such as flower arranging or running Wii bowling tournaments.

A typical day for a resident begins with picking up their newspaper, which is usually on their doorknob or front door, Atwood said. One resident likes to walk to CVS and buy a newspaper.

Next, they can get coffee or breakfast in the dining room, she said. Morning activities vary. Independent residents may work out in the gym or with an exercise physiologist on staff.

After lunch, there are various afternoon activities, including pool, walks around the property, exercise, Sudoku and stretching.

Every day at 4 p.m. is Happy Hour, with beer and wine for the residents – and even Jameson Whiskey for one of the residents.

The Egis Memory Care unit will open at Colebrook this weekend for working with people with cognitive impairments, a big passion of Atwood's, who refers to the staff as Alzheimer's Whisperers.

"They see their ability to work with [Alzheimer's patients] as a calling," Atwood said. "That's me too, we get them, we understand."

Colebrook staff will participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer's on September 15 in New London and will hold a bake sale to raise funds for the cause on August 11.

Other fun things in the works at Colebrook include putting together a softball team and "ABC: Above and Beyond Caring, Compassion, Courtesy, Consciousness," a monthly program where staff are nominated for awards.

AHM Summer Youth Theater Performs 13 This Year

by Sloan Brewster

In its 35th year, AHM Summer Youth Theater is getting ready to open the curtain on this summer's production, *13 The Musical*, a Tony Award-winning show by Jason Robert Brown.

On Tuesday, the *Rivereast* caught up with members of the cast and director and choreographer Kyle Reynolds during a rehearsal for the production.

Reynolds said the show, which hit Broadway in 2007, is about the trials and tribulations of turning 13 years old.

"That wonderful and yet slightly horrible time in your life," he told this reporter. "I don't know if you remember 13 but I do, even though I don't really want to. I think everyone can just appreciate what that weird time was like in their life."

This musical is a coming-of-age comedy with some serious and timely undertones, according to a description of the show in a press release from AHM. Following a move from New York City to small-town Indiana, young Evan Goldman grapples with his parents' divorce, prepares for his impending bar mitzvah, and navigates the complicated social circles of a new school.

Brown is known as a great composer who created music that is challenging for musicians and vocalists.

"The music is really energetic and really difficult but I'm really impressed with what the kids have done with it," Reynolds said. "It's not your typical musical."

As testimony to the truth in Reynolds' description, music director Abigail Winkler commented on the difficulty of a score and shook out her hands several times in apparent pain after finishing a piece.

Music makes doing the show worthwhile, as far as at least one cast member is concerned.

Sarah Aissis plays Molly, a cheerleader in the popular crowd, and is understudy for the

larger roles of Kendra and Patrice. Having graduated RHAM High School in June, Aissis is in her final year with the Summer Youth Theater. She's been performing in the annual plays since she was in seventh grade, and she said she feels songs, especially in musicals, tell a story.

"Music is an amazing outlet for me; whenever I'm having a difficult time in life and I just need to get my emotions out I do it through music," she said. "I do [the play] for the love of music."

Aissis said she also does it for the love of dance, which, under Reynolds' direction, has become an even bigger part of the group's productions.

In 2017, Reynolds took over for former director Mary Rose Meade, who retired after running the group since its beginnings.

"So I had some big shoes to fill," Reynolds said.

Reynolds, a teacher at Western Connecticut State University, Post University and the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, has worked alongside Broadway veterans, brought his dance training to the productions.

"The thing that I bring to the program is that I have a lot of training in dance," he said. "In previous years the shows weren't very dance-heavy so I push the choreography and they really love it."

Aissis concurred. She said she loves working with Reynolds as he is "much more interactive" and has increased the amount of dancing.

"It gives the cast members a lot more opportunities," she said. "You can tell he's very passionate and he really expresses that well and gives everyone a chance to be seen and heard."

As Aissis described the director's passion, he hopped on stage and started dancing and singing with a couple cast members, giving them instruction on a number they were rehearsing.



The cast of AHM Summer Youth Theater's production of *13 The Musical* rehearses a scene in the Broadway hit about the trials and tribulations of turning 13 years old.

Katie Malgioglio plays Lucy, "a girl who sees herself as the queen bee," she said.

Malgioglio said Lucy is not a very nice girl, and sets out to steal her best friend's boyfriend.

"I don't relate to her much, and that's why I like playing her," she said. "It's just different and it's very fun because if you're playing a nice character or just a character without a lot of personality, it gets boring."

Lucy, Malgioglio assured, will have appeal to the audience.

"I think the audience will like to hate her and I think she definitely has a lot of funny moments and the audience will go 'What is she doing, what is happening?' and I think that will be fun to see," she said.

Like Aissis, Malgioglio has been in the Summer Youth Theater since seventh grade and is also in her last season with the troupe. "This

cast really is always a family and the sense of community is really so strong here," Malgioglio said.

According to the press release, more than forty sixth- through 12th-grade students from area schools benefit from the five-week program with training provided by Reynolds and Winkler. Winkler is a Yale University graduate, vocal instructor at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts and an accompanist.

13 The Musical will take place at the air-conditioned RHAM High School auditorium at 85 Wall St. Friday, July 27, and Saturday the 28th. Curtain is at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$7 for children/seniors and may be purchased at the door, at the Hebron Town Hall, or at the AHM office, 25 Pendleton Drive in Hebron (860-228-9488).

Meet Andover's New Resident State Trooper

by Sloan Brewster

There's a new sheriff in town – or a new resident state trooper, that is.

Darrell Tetreault took over as Andover's resident state trooper on July 9, after spending the week before shadowing Jared Avery, who had been serving temporarily in the spot.

"He had a lot of insight on the town," Tetreault said of Avery.

Tetreault was resident state trooper in Westbrook for two years. When his position was eliminated in June due to budgetary constraints, he applied for the Andover position.

He's not a newbie to the area, though. He was with Troop K for two years and in 2015 was temporary resident trooper in Bolton for three months. He always wanted to come back to the area, he said.

"This town, it signifies New England charm," he said. "I just want to be part of that community and do what I can to serve the citizens of Andover and the citizens of Connecticut."

Town Administrator Joseph Higgins said Tetreault has been doing well.

"He wants to be very active in the community," Higgins said.

A graduate of Southern Connecticut State University with a degree in business and a minor in health, Tetreault was the director of operations for a truck company in New York City before he decided to change careers. He found he wasn't fulfilled by the work, he said.

"I was doing the 9 to 5 commute," he said. "I was wearing a suit, had a great job. After five years I was bored."

At the time, his brother, Justin Tetreault, was taking the law enforcement exam and is now a cop in Hartford. Tetreault decided to follow that path as well and entered the Police Academy. From the start, he knew he wanted to be a state trooper, as opposed to being a town officer.

"The state police are the state police," he said. "We run the show."

Tetreault went into the academy in May 2010 and graduated in November of that year. For those six months he and his fellow cadets lived at the Meriden facility five days a week, going

home on weekends.

The paramilitary training was intense, with cadets tested mentally and physically in preparation for the real work.

"They train you as best they can to deal with encounters off all natures, from deadly force to medical to being a school resource officer," the trooper said. "It's a life-changing experience. You make a lifelong bond with your academy classmates. ... It's an experience that the outside world doesn't share. I always like to say, 'One team, one fight.'"

State troopers work alone and do not have partners. They use their cars off duty for personal use and with no cage in them, save for those with K9s, they transfer prisoners in the front seat.

"You have to be trained," Tetreault said.

Training continues after graduation, with numerous in service exercises per year, drills at the State Police Shooting Range in Simsbury and active shooter drills.

"Just because you graduate from the academy, it doesn't mean your training is done," Tetreault said. "It's a constant work in progress."

The last active shooter drill Tetreault participated in took place in an abandoned mental hospital. According to the scenario, an active shooter was in the building with shots fired in the presence of an unknown number of other people.

Working in teams, the troopers started on the ground floor, clearing the building while honing necessary skills, including what to do when coming upon an injured person and trusting other troopers on scene.

"It's a live fire exercise with blanks," Tetreault said.

During the exercise, he said, the troopers' motions are recorded, allowing them to view the footage later and check for "training scars," such as not entering the building correctly – or rushing.

"Obviously, it's a huge adrenaline rush," he said of the exercise. But he added it's important for the officers to not let that adrenaline take control – and instead slow down and pay

attention to everything around them, so as not to miss things that may be occurring in the periphery.

"It's very important to control your bearing, take a deep breath," Tetreault said. "The quicker you go, the higher potential for mistakes."

Troopers also complete Emergency Medical Responder certification, as well as training in handling domestic disputes and DUI incidents, handcuffing techniques, and more.

To Tetreault, being a trooper is about giving back to the community.

"I enjoy giving back to people," he said. He added that "people need help sometimes" and it's rewarding "if I can be there and am able to brighten their day in one way or another."

When asked if being stopped for speeding and given a ticket is supposed to brighten someone's day, Tetreault laughed and said no, but added that it was something cops do "for your protection."

Tetreault is active in the community, helping police cadets advance at Troop K, where students from all over, including RHAM and Bacon Academy look at possible futures in law enforcement. He also teaches DARE at Andover Elementary School.

Tetreault, whose office is in Town Hall, said he has an open door policy, and invites residents to call him if they have any questions and wants to be there to let folks know what state police can do for them. He added that he knew what happened in town this past budget season, when the Board of Finance pulled funding for the resident state trooper program, only to restore it after public outcry.

"I want the residents to know that I'm here for them, that I understand that there's a lot of concern for the program based on the expense and whether or not it's worth it to have a trooper in town," he said. "I'm going to be around, so this isn't going to be a disappearing act where I'm behind the desk."

He said he plans to vary his hours and will work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Tetreault's flexibility and willingness to work varied hours will be a help to the town, Higgins



Darrell Tetreault is Andover's new resident state trooper.

said.

Since taking over the position, Tetreault has dealt with a few identity thefts, automobile accidents, complaints about loitering, vandalism at Veterans Memorial Field and issues at the transfer station.

After the town imposed a fee for using the transfer station, some folks were "aggressive" to attendants, according to selectmen at last week's Board of Selectmen meeting. Because of the issues, there was a police presence there last week.

There were "no issues once the word got out that we were going to be there," Tetreault said. "I'm still going to visit the transfer station, to make sure there are no potential issues that come up."

Tetreault said he is big into automobiles and likes antiques. He has a 1973 Volkswagen Beetle and a 1964 Corvette Stingray. He was one of the drivers at the Barrett-Jackson Car Show at Mohegan Sun in June.

Colchester Community Theatre Celebrates 20 Years

by Allison Lazur

Twenty years of song, dance and memories will be celebrated at Colchester Community Theatre's 20th anniversary show tomorrow evening.

Vice president of production, and founding member of the theatre, Wallis Johnson, revealed that every show performed over the last twenty years will be highlighted through a montage of selected song and dance numbers that utilize original set pieces and choreography.

"We have set pieces that are still intact from a lot of these shows over the last twenty years," Johnson said.

Several of the original cast members, featured in the theatre's yearly productions, will also return to revisit roles in shows such as *Annie*, *Oliver*, *Hello Dolly* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

Johnson said members are traveling from all over the state, with one individual making the trek from Florida to perform in tomorrow's anniversary performance.

Johnson spoke highly of the entire theatre when she met with the *Rivereast* this week during the children's summer theatre workshop – which is held annually for two weeks at Bacon Academy.

"Everyone is really meticulous in our crews, which just elevates what the theatre company can do."

Johnson explained that the set design, construction and painting begins in December and continues most weeknights and weekends until the middle of February. Costumes are on a similar schedule completed by "seamstresses that just sew madly," Johnson said.

The props are made and gathered for the shows by individuals who "spend oodles of time creating these props," she said.

The productions also utilize a live pit orchestra of 20 to 35 musicians, Johnson said.

The attention to detail by the theatre's group of volunteer hairstylists includes conducting research on period hairstyles, be they updos or wigs, the style is accurate, Johnson said.

"If you think about the last 20 years, we've worked with literally tens of thousands of people, she said.

With the exception of the directors, choreographer, stage manager, and lighting and sound crews, all of the participants with Colchester Community Theatre are volunteers, explained theatre president Diane Ozmun.

Ozmun reminisced about some of her favorite shows and roles, all of which audience members will be able to relive with her tomorrow night.

"There was just something so unique about [*Titanic the Musical*] and I think it had to do with the fact that it really took place in history," Ozmun said. "The cast honored that whole experience through musical theatre; they honored that piece of history. It was very emotional for all of us and even when we hear the music now, it gives us chills."

Johnson also spoke highly of her experience with the *Titanic* show, as well as *Fiddler on the Roof*.

"[The shows] really have a story that speaks of human suffering and great human endurance and hope," she said, adding, "the way our cast portrayed those characters was just from their



The Colchester Community Theatre will host its 20-year anniversary show tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the Bacon Academy auditorium, highlighting song and dance numbers from every show performed by the theatre in the last two decades – including *The Wizard of Oz*. Photo courtesy Rich Arsenault.

souls."

Resident Ronald Goldstein became involved with the theatre fifteen years ago, playing the role of the rabbi in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Goldstein said he was initially contacted to educate the theatre members on Jewish practices in preparation for the show, but ended up on stage after being coaxed by Johnson.

"I could just feel right away this group was special – I was hooked," he said.

In addition to the theatre's annual February show and summer children's workshops, the group also creates a float for the Colchester Memorial Day parade.

The group, although sponsored by the town's parks and recreation department, is funded through ticket and ad sales, as well as donations, Johnson said.

Ozmun explained that even though the anniversary show is an opportunity to host a reunion with past cast members, it's also a time "to celebrate with the town, the people, the businesses, the parks and recreation department and the school, all of which have supported us."

Residents can witness the magic on stage tomorrow night at Bacon Academy at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each for adults and children, and will be available for purchase at the door.



The Colchester Continentals Fife and Drum Corps – resurrected in 2004 – made the trip to Valley Forge at the beginning of the month to retrace the journey of Revolutionary War hero, Colonel Henry Champion, who delivered rations almost 300 miles to General George Washington’s troops. The trip is symbolized by the charging steer – inked on the corps’ bass drums – which represents the physical cattle rations Champion delivered, as well as the “courage, perseverance and fortitude” he experienced during his trek to Valley Forge.

Colchester Corps Combines Community, Music and History

by Allison Lazur

Music, history and the importance of community harmoniously come together to create the Colchester Continentals Fife and Drum Corps.

The unique ensemble – with origins dating back to the late 1800’s – has a foundation rooted strongly in revolutionary war history, performing patriotic tunes and upholding the traditions of fife and drums, while forming a family-like bond with one another.

With these ideals in mind, the corps retraced the monumental journey of Colchester’s revolutionary war hero, Colonel Henry Champion, on a trip to Valley Forge at the beginning of the month.

According to the Colchester Historical Society’s website, after Champion was contacted by General George Washington, he made a trip during the winter of 1777-1778 to deliver beef and rations to starving troops at Valley Forge.

The Colchester Continental bass drums bear a symbolic charging steer, which corps Director Wayne Seidel said represents the actual herd of cattle delivered to the continental army, as well as “the courage, perseverance and fortitude that Colonel Champion experienced traveling to Valley Forge.”

Seidel added “it was pretty neat when we were actually performing in Valley Forge, telling that story and being able to say ‘look, we’ve made that same pilgrimage.’”

The Colchester Drum Corps, established in the early 1900s, eventually became known as the Colchester Continentals and used the famed Brown drums, according to the corps’ website.

It is speculated the Continentals stopped playing around the time of the World War II, according to the website.

Fifer Kristy Jansson explained that the corps stopped playing at that time so the members

could go to fight in the war.

Several members, including Seidel and Jansson, decided to resurrect the Colchester Continentals in 2004 after discovering they had no senior corps to advance to.

“A bunch of us had graduated from the Marlborough Junior Ancient Fife and Drum Corps and there were really no corps in the area that really connected to what our experience was,” Jansson said.

With the help of benefactor Phil Liverant, who donated money to help reestablish the corps, the Colchester Continentals were reborn.

“[Liverant’s] dream was to give the town of Colchester a fife and drum corps,” Seidel said.

According to Seidel, Connecticut has upwards of thirty fife and drum corps where surrounding states such as Massachusetts and New York have between six and eight corps.

“[Fife and drum corps is] really a unique folk art where the epicenter is here in Connecticut,” he said.

On its most recent trip to Pennsylvania, the corps performed in Gettysburg on the 155th anniversary of the final battle of Gettysburg.

The twenty to thirty person ensemble has also performed at various locations around the country including Bar Harbor, Maine, Virginia, Disney World and even a Bahamas-bound cruise ship.

“We really try to diversify what we’re doing and the reasons why we’re doing it,” Seidel said. He explained the bottom line is to uphold the corps’ mission, which is essentially “to spread the knowledge of fifing and drumming to the community.”

The corps also participates in civic duty performances such as raising money for the Colchester Food Bank and playing for local Boy Scout troops. Furthermore, the musical combo participates in regular musters – or gathering

of fife and drum corps – where several corps have the opportunity to play for each other and the community.

“Musters are what we do to support other fife and drum corps and because we like seeing our friends,” Seidel said.

These varying performances are what fifer Jeff Weber said was his favorite aspect of the corps.

“Every year [Sniedel] finds a different gig that we haven’t done before,” Weber said.

He went on to explain the corps performed at a backyard wedding in Deep River, as well as at Foxwoods Resort Casino for 250 to 300 Frito-Lay employees in 2012.

“That [Frito-Lay performance] was unique because we didn’t really know what to expect when we got there, so we kind of had to figure it out on the fly,” Weber said. “Because we’ve known each other so long, everyone kind of figures out how to work with each other pretty quickly.”

When performing, every member in the corps is in character, explained Militia Sergeant Robert Parlee.

“When we do a show, we become the soldiers,” he said.

Parlee, who referred to himself as a “history buff,” has the responsibility of giving commands to the color guard and militia including when to march, turn and fire the musket.

Parlee joined a few months after his son Josh, but was the reason his son initially became involved with the organization.

Josh explained that his father encouraged him to attend a muster on the green and subsequently inquire about joining the corp.

“I clicked [with the group] right away,” Josh said, adding “it just worked.”

Josh, unlike other members, entered the corps four years ago with a formal music background

from the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, where he studied jazz and world drumming.

Parlee, whose daughter Rachel is a member of the corps’ color guard, referred to the corps as “a family affair.”

“Everyone [in the corps] really cares about everyone and their family and their wellbeing,” Parlee said, adding “that’s truly what this really is.”

Drum Sergeant Brandon Jansson also noted how the corps is like a family, specifically stating that Seidel and Weber are “like brothers to me.”

Because both he and his wife Kristy are corps members, their children are often present at corps events.

Brandon said “being able to enjoy the family time [of the corps] by bringing our personal families” is something he truly enjoys.

He said his favorite memories of the corps include watching his children grow up and interact with other members’ children.

While the corps upholds a level of professionalism on the field, off the field the corps bonds over monthly gatherings at Seidel’s home – playfully referred to as “Big Daddy’s Barbershop.” The corps members congregate at this monthly event of pizza – or Chinese food – and haircuts given by amateur barber Seidel himself.

“We’re like a big family,” Seidel said. “We love to have fun and we are total goofs.”

Anyone interested in joining the Colchester Continentals can visit their website at www.colchestercontinentals.org and arrange to attend one of the corps’ weekly Sunday evening practices from 6 to 8 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Marlborough.

Residents can also check out the corps at its annual muster on the Colchester green, which kicks off at noon on July 28.

Pair of Break-ins in Colchester

State Police said two unlocked vehicles were entered last week, resulting in stolen credit cards and cash.

According to police, an unknown individual entered a vehicle on Goldberg Road on July 10 and stole several credit cards.

A second unlocked vehicle, parked at a residence on Park Avenue, was entered during the late evening hours of July 9 and early morning hours of July 10. A wallet containing several credit cards and cash was taken, police said.

Both incidents are currently under investigation.

Colchester Police: Vehicle Stolen by Juvenile

State police reported that at approximately 12:52 a.m. July 10 they received a report that a vehicle was stolen from a residence on James Street. The reporting party told police they were following the stolen vehicle until the vehicle traveled off the side of the road and became stuck, police said.

According to police, the reporting party said

the suspect fled on foot near Lebanon Avenue and Elm Street.

Police were able to secure the area and locate the 14-year old juvenile with the help of a police K-9 unit.

The juvenile later admitted to having stolen the vehicle and was taken into custody by police and issued a juvenile summons.

Two-Vehicle Crash in Colchester, Suspected Minor Injuries

Colchester Police responded to a rear-end crash on July 10 at approximately 4:08 p.m.

According to police, a Hyundai Tucson driven by Meghan E. Autencio, 23, of 51 Cottage Rd., Oakdale, was traveling eastbound on Middletown Road and slowing to make a left turn onto Bigelow Road when the vehicle was struck from behind by a Subaru Impreza.

The Subaru was driven by Brent Curtis, 22,

of 7-2 Countryside Ln., Middletown, who was found at fault for following too closely.

Police said Autencio was transported by the Colchester Fire Department to the Marlborough Clinic for complaints of head pain. Curtis refused medical attention on scene, but stated he would go to the Marlborough Clinic due to chest pain.

Snow Leads to Salty Situation in Colchester Water

by Allison Lazur

Even in the summer, New England can't escape the repercussions of a northeast winter.

Just when Colchester residents started to bask in the warm weather, they in May received a notification from the sewer and water department explaining that deicing salt used this past winter had resulted in increased sodium levels in the town's water supply.

After a water test in April revealed an increased sodium level of 45.3mg/L, up from the town's normal levels of 28 mg/L, the sewer and water department mailed 2,100 residents on the town's water supply a notice revealing the findings.

Public Works Director Jim Paggioli said rock salt used to deice roads can impact the water supply as runoff.

Paggioli told the *Rivereast* this week the sodium levels have already decreased to 35mg/L since informing residents of the levels in early May, and are expected to continue falling over the next few months. He also added that, while the water is normally tested quarterly, due to the sodium increase it is currently being tested monthly.

Paggioli explained that notification was sent to residents in case there were individuals who are on low-sodium diets.

"The water is safe to drink, but those on low-sodium diets should follow their doctor's or-

ders," Paggioli said.

Although the sodium cannot be filtered out of the water, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends sodium levels in drinking water not exceed 30 mg/L to 60 mg/L, in order to avoid the possible detection of a salty taste to the water.

Paggioli explained that the town went through a similar scenario in 2012 where the sodium levels had also increased after a set of winter storms hit the state.

The town's water supply taps into three different wells, before being filtered and sourced to the center of town. Paggioli said of the three wells, one tested at the elevated 45mg/L level while the other two were much lower and closer to normal levels.

In order to compensate for the well with the increased levels, Paggioli said the town is sourcing more water from the two normal-level wells and less from the salt-impacted well.

Paaggioli suggested that while the increased sodium is due to the road salt used during the winter storms, the town isn't to blame. The three wells all source water from areas around Route 2, Route 16 and Route 85 – which, as state roads, are deiced by the state Department of Transportation rather than town crews.

According to the DOT, certain highways and bridges are pretreated with a mixture of salt and

water – salt brine – throughout the winter season.

However, the EPA takes a more cautious approach on the use of salt as a deicing measure.

The agency states "salt and other deicing chemicals can concentrate in runoff, which enters surface water or percolates through soil to reach ground water sources." Also noting "reservoirs and other drinking water supplies near treated highways and salt storage sites are susceptible to contamination therefore special consideration and best management practices (BMPs) are needed to protect them."

The Town of Colchester does not use salt exclusively, but instead a product called Ice B'Gone – a treated calcium chloride that only contains "some salt," Paggioli said.

The product's website boasts being less corrosive than other deicers, biodegradable and pet- and environmentally-friendly.

According to the EPA, calcium chloride is an effective alternative to rock salt, specifically noting the use of the chemical in areas of New England with "high-sodium concentrations in water."

The cost of a calcium chloride alternative, however, is higher when compared to rock salt,

which is why the EPA recommends using a combination of both to achieve cost-effectiveness and safety.

Paggioli also revealed that sand was considered to be an alternative deicing compound until research revealed negative effects on wetland areas from heavy metals which settle in the aftermath of a storm.

"You have to determine increase of salinity or heavy metals at the wetlands," Paggioli said. "The state has an obligation to make the roads safe – there's not an easy solution."

Moving forward, the notice sent to residents states that communication with the town and state road crews will result in "reduced road salt use" around water sourced areas, as well as properly curbing the roadway to reduce runoff.

The good news is local businesses like the Inishmor Pub said they were unaffected by the salty situation.

Owner Alex Levere told the *Rivereast* this week "it had little to no impact on the pub."

He added that when he learned of the increased sodium levels in the water, "we didn't do much other than just let our customers know. A couple of people mentioned it to us, but it didn't seem to be on too many people's minds."

Colchester Finance Board Fills Vacancy

by Allison Lazur

The Board of Finance unanimously voted Wednesday night to appoint Democrat Nilda Negron to a vacant seat after interviewing her just minutes earlier.

The vacancy opened a few weeks ago with the departure of Thomas Kane, a Democrat. While town charter states the board has sixty days to fill the position, it made the decision to fill the spot shortly after the conclusion of the interviews.

The finance board interviewed Negron and Democrat Michael Hayes before ultimately deciding on Negron.

Negron, an attorney, owns a law firm in Hartford focused on probate, juvenile law, bankruptcy and real estate.

Members cited her legal expertise as a deciding factor in her appointment to the finance board. They said replacing Kane, a real estate attorney, with another lawyer would be beneficial to the board.

The members of the finance board through their interview questions revealed they were looking for a candidate who exhibits ties to Colchester, has finance experience, understands the budget challenges at the state and local level and is able to offer the board something new.

The lawyer and mother focused the majority of her interview on the importance of education, citing the quality of Colchester schools as a reason for moving to the town thirteen years ago.

Negron unsuccessfully ran for a seat on the Board of Education last year.

Finance board Republican Andrea Migliaccio acknowledged Negron's continued support for the schools, but voiced concern about whether or not Negron could take a "fair, balanced approach" when creating next year's budget in a tough financial climate at the state and local levels.

"I know you ran for the board of education and have a passion for it – you should have a passion for it, I have a passion for it - but it's

not always the whole picture," Migliaccio said.

Negron stated she understood there were other priorities besides the schools and agreed to take the time to collaborate with the rest of the board, as well as prioritize the town's services, in order to serve the people of Colchester.

Negron said other priorities include the fire and medical services, which she emphasized need to be "kept up and running," as well executing the plan to rebuild the senior center – a hot topic for the Board of Selectmen and finance board since the town purchased the new property last year.

"There has to be a balance between our necessary resources like the police and fire with the school budget," Negron said. "It's important for our children to be educated to be productive citizens in the future."

Another asset Negron noted was her ability and experience to collaborate with various groups of people.

Negron said she worked for the liquidation side of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) before landing a position at Traveler's Insurance. According to her written application to the Board of Finance, she started her own Hartford-based law firm in 2008.

"Every case you have to work with individuals, attorneys, social workers; you have to collaborate – it's not just one person. You have to get all the information first, before you can actually make a decision, as well making sure my clients understand what the law is," she said.

Negron continued fielding tough and detailed questions throughout the evening, including one about what she felt the finance board could do differently moving forward.

Citing productivity as a priority, she said the finance board does not make documents available far enough in advance.

"As a newcomer I would want to review the documents ahead of time to be prepared," she said.

The board expressed their enthusiasm with Negron's law background, as well as her expe-



Nilda Negron was sworn in Wednesday night by Town Clerk Gayle Furman (right) after receiving unanimous support from the Board of Finance to fill its vacant Democrat seat. Board of Selectman Vice Chairman Rosemary Coyle (left) voiced her support of Negron at Wednesday's meeting, while standing alongside smiling Selectman James Ford.

rience working with various tax and financial documents at her law firm, but not before stating they all recognized that Hayes was a worthy contender for the spot, with his own impressive set of skills.

Hayes, who is retired, told finance board members he ran two businesses in landscaping and real estate appraisal while maintaining an active role in the community. The board acknowledged his regular attendance at finance board and Board of Education meetings. Hayes currently serves on the Sewer and Water Commission and volunteers as a poll worker during elections.

* * *

Residents, including Board of Selectmen

Vice Chairman Rosemary Coyle, voiced their support for both candidates during the public comments portion at the beginning of the meeting.

"When we put people on committees, I think you have to consider Colchester – people who have civic engagement," Coyle said. "I'm not choosing one over the other because I think they are both excellent candidates that have demonstrated that over the years. A lot of what we do has to do with policy, decisions that affect things that happen in the community, goals of the community and you need people on this board that understand everything. I think you'll find that in both Mike and Nilda."

Footloose to Dance into Belltown

by Elizabeth Regan

Everybody will cut *Footloose* next weekend as the Young People's Center for Creative Arts harnesses the frenetic energy of 90 teenagers in a production about rebelling and letting go.

The summer camp will culminate with performances July 26-29 in the East Hampton High School auditorium.

YPCCA Director Rachel Mansfield said *Footloose*, based on the 1998 Broadway musical, which in turn was based on the popular 1984 film of the same name, gives cast members the chance to be themselves on stage.

"We love shows in which teens can play teens," Mansfield said. "We're capturing the energy of teenagers and it's so much fun."

With music by Tom Snow and lyrics by Dean Pitchford – who also wrote the original screenplay – the show revolves around Ren McCormack, a kid from Chicago who moves to a small town with a ban on dancing. It features recognizable tunes like "Holding Out For a Hero," "Let's Hear It For the Boy," and "Almost Paradise."

There are so many actors that members of the stage crew had to design platforms to extend the stage in front so the whole cast could fit on it at one time, according to Mansfield.

"When you hear them sing, it is an unbelievable sound. The volume is incredible. It's so much fun to hear. Once the show is totally up and they're dancing as well, it's going to be so much fun to watch," Mansfield said.

Choreographer Jennifer Friday described the show as "a youthful explosion" meant to be danced by teenagers.

"They get to bring their own personalities to the dance. We're not trying to contain who they are and turn them into a chorus line," Friday said.

Shaina Dunn, herself a choreographer with this year's East Hampton High School production of *Pippin* to her credit, will play Ren's love interest. She said the one-month, accelerated production timeline is more grueling than the

typical high school musical schedule.

"It's different learning your lines in two weeks than in two months," she said.

Playing the dual role of cast member and camp counselor-in-training, Dunn said the immersive summer experience gives the young cast – many of whom are still in middle school – a strong foundation in musical theater.

YPCCA campers have the option to participate in workshops ranging from an a cappella performance of Elvis's "Can't Help Falling in Love With You" to instruction in stage combat.

Nick White, a rising junior at East Hampton High School, will be portraying Ren. He said the close and supportive YPCCA summer camp experience has made him a better singer, actor and dancer.

The camp began in 1982, when the late Mike and Adina Mansfield launched the program to supplement dwindling support for the arts in public schools throughout the area. Continued family involvement and the addition of fresh, local talent has helped the program grow ever since.

This year's production staff also includes music director Melanie Guerin, technical director Chris Briggs, and dramaturg – or literary advisor – Chris Mansfield.

"If I need help with acting, I can go to Chris Mansfield or Rachel Mansfield," Nick White said. "With dancing, I have Shaina Dunn and Jen Friday. There's a lot of people who can help me out. And there's a lot of inspiration."

The role of Ren's mother will be played by Beck White, who is Nick White's real-life sister.

Beck White credited the summer theater program with setting her on the trajectory that will take her to Fairleigh Dickinson University in the fall to study musical theater and psychology.

"YPCCA helped me fall in love with theater and helped me see the more professional side of it," she said. "Seeing all these talented counselors made me realize this is something I could



The cast of *Footloose* will kick off their Sunday shoes next weekend with performances July 26-29 at East Hampton High School. The Young People's Center for Creative Arts production includes (left to right) Lena Bosco, Shaina Dunn, Lily Cordeiro and Avery Coe.

do with my life."

She used the training to full effect this spring when she directed the high school production of *Pippin* as her senior-year capstone project.

The cast of *Footloose* includes a couple adult staff members, who play older characters in order to provide a more realistic age gap between the characters. Patrick Holden, a YPCCA counselor and a junior at Keene State College, will be playing the Rev. Shaw Moore. The minister is the father of Ren McCormack's love interest and the man behind the dance ban.

Holden said he spent four years as a camper

before becoming a counselor last summer. It's family vibe that brings him back year after year, he added.

While he remembered feeling intimidated and overwhelmed during his YPCCA debut in the 2013 production of *Chicago*, he said that feeling quickly changed.

"Within one month, I was crying leaving our final meeting because it's such an amazing group of people," he said. "We're all supportive of one another. We really have this family attitude and that's why all our shows are so great."

New East Hampton Budget Proposal Aims to Strike Balance

by Elizabeth Regan

The superintendent of schools and town finance director this week unveiled a new proposal to resolve simmering budget tensions between those who want more money spent on education and those who want to pay less in taxes.

Following the failure of the \$15.17 million general government spending plan at its second referendum last month, the town remains without an approved 2018-19 budget. The \$30.50 million education budget passed at the first budget referendum in May.

Superintendent of Schools Paul K. Smith and town Finance Director Jeff Jylkka presented their plan Monday at the Board of Finance regular meeting.

The budget maneuver would take \$250,000 slated for student computer tablets and classroom interior door locks out of the town's proposed 2018-19 capital budget. The items instead would be funded through a portion of the past fiscal year's budget surplus of approximately \$600,000.

The \$250,000 freed up in the capital budget would then be directed to the Board of Education to restore three teaching positions, according to Smith and Jylkka.

Smith said he would bring back a third grade, fifth grade and high school English teaching position.

The plan would be authorized by voters as part of the next budget referendum.

Smith said he would prefer to have a referendum scheduled before school starts, but did not want to be so "presumptuous" as to rush the process. He said even if a budget is approved after the school year starts, it will not be too late to hire new teachers and rearrange classrooms.

The benefits of reducing crowded elementary classrooms from roughly 27 students to 23 students outweigh the disruption to the affected children and teachers, according to the superintendent.

Advocates for the school system have been resentful of \$670,000 in cuts made by the fi-

nance board and endorsed by the council in April. Complicating the issue was the subsequent and unexpected release of \$715,415 in funding from the state, which the advocates believe should be applied to the education budget.

The \$250,000 additional appropriation must also be approved by the finance board and the Town Council – which can only be done after a 2018-19 budget is approved.

Jylkka said he was "thinking outside the box" when he came up with the plan to ask voters to authorize the transfer as a ballot question at the next budget referendum.

There would be two questions on the ballot, according to a draft document provided to finance board members by Jylkka. The first one would ask voters to approve the general government budget. Coming in at \$15.17 million when it failed at referendum last month, the spending plan has not yet been reevaluated or revised by the finance board or council.

Draft language for the second ballot question reads: "If question 1 is approved shall the town of East Hampton transfer \$250,000 from town operations (capital reserve fund transfer) to the Board of Education operations budget for costs associated with teachers salaries and benefits."

While a machine vote at referendum is not required to approve an additional appropriation, Jylkka indicated that adding the question to the next budget ballot adds transparency to the process. In other words, taxpayers would have a role in the outcome and, if the question is passed, would be assured the additional appropriation is carried out.

Republican Michael Rose and Democrat Barbara Moore expressed support for the new plan. Republicans Alannah Coshow and Bridget McLennan said they needed more time to examine the budget situation.

Democrat Ted Turner and Republican Janine Jantonio were absent. Vice Chairman Richard Brown called in via speakerphone but was mostly silent.

After the meeting, Rose described the proposed restoration of three teaching positions as a fair way to try to resolve the protracted budget battle.

"And it makes sense to do that before the school year starts, not after," he said.

Referendum Timing

Board of Finance members on Monday expressed different levels of urgency when it comes to approving its latest 2018-19 general government recommendation in preparation for a third referendum.

The board has taken no votes to recommend another budget since the second general government spending plan failed on June 12 by 170 votes.

The town is currently operating on a temporary general government budget as approved by members of the Town Council. The temporary budget comes with a freeze on capital spending such as road improvements and repairs to the library roof.

Rose told board members he wants to get a general government budget recommendation to the Town Council as soon as possible, with no additional cuts. He said he saw the failure of the last spending plan as a message from education advocates that they wanted more money in the education budget, not less in the town budget.

"I'm not going to vote to cut it," Rose said. "That's it."

Republican finance board member Alannah Coshow took the opposite viewpoint.

"I think we have to make some cuts," she said.

Not doing so would be a "slap in the face" to those taxpayers – especially the elderly and people without children – who voted 'no' because they thought the budget was too high, according to Coshow.

But Coshow acknowledged she did not come to the meeting with her detailed budget notes and suggestions for cuts because she didn't think members would be discussing the topic.

The agenda for the meeting included discus-

sion and possible action on the finance board's 2018-19 town budget recommendation.

Members had decided at their regular June meeting, which was held a week after the second failed referendum, to postpone deliberations until July.

Coshow told the *Rivereast* after this week's meeting that she was under the impression the town would be holding off on a referendum until September. It was unclear when or where the discussion occurred and who was involved in it.

Rose, when asked for clarification about discussions surrounding plans for a September referendum, would only reiterate that he personally hopes to see a budget proposal go to referendum before the school year starts.

According to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco's monthly update to finance board members, it may be too late to fund catch basin cleaning this fiscal year if there's no approved budget in place by the end of August. He said that's because the work requires one payment up front, which isn't possible in the current month-to-month budget framework.

Maniscalco said only "minimal" road patching and striping will occur under the temporary budget.

It's probably already too late for repairs to the leaky library roof to be undertaken this construction season, he added.

Tax bills have already been sent out based on last fiscal year's mill rate, with any difference to be made up in a supplemental bill after a final budget is approved at referendum.

Jylkka said the earliest a referendum could be held is about four weeks from the date the finance board recommends a budget. That's how long it will take to meet all the budget planning requirements outlined in local and state law.

The Board of Finance will meet for a special meeting to discuss the general government Monday, July 23 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall meeting room.



The 40th Old Home Days Glorious Celebration drew revelers for three days filled with carnival rides, fried food, free bikes and the county's longest parade. On the left, Leanne Dudek and her son, Nicholas, stood with their prize from Friday night's bicycle raffle. A total of 60 bikes were given away. At right, fairgoers excitedly awaited the raffle drawing as volunteers threw glow necklaces and t-shirts into the crowd.

Old Home Days Marks 40 Years of Fun

by Elizabeth Regan

The Old Home Days Glorious Celebration has been giving people something to come back to for 40 years.

A Friday night visit to the three-day fair revealed that many former residents look at it as a chance to return to their roots for a few days and to catch up with family and friends.

Old Home Day Association President Jennifer Collingwood cited that sense of coming home again as an inspiration for her volunteer work on the committee. She described the return of an old neighbor who had planned a trip back to East Hampton specifically for the festival.

"It's Old Home Days; it's a reunion of sorts for so many," she said. "It's so neat to witness that."

It's also a celebration of the town for those who still call it home.

A cross-section of local groups converged on the grounds of Center School this year, from local political town committees to a drug prevention group to a pop-up hair salon raising money for scholarships in memory of a young man who died of cancer this year.

A local massage therapist offered free, five-minute massages for any of the 476 runners who participated in the 20th Glorious Gallop Road Race.

Numerous carnival attractions twirled, flipped and shrieked as children sporting All-You-Can Ride wristbands got in line after line with smiles on their faces.

A constant soundtrack emanated from the stage, which offered up musical stylings ranging from classic rock to hip hop over the course of three days.

Resident Amy Trowbridge came out to Old Home Days this year for the eighth time in a row. That makes her 6-year-old son, Colin, a lifelong attendee.

As she watched Colin in the Hula Hoop Rodeo enclosure using skills he'd learned from his older sister, Trowbridge said coming back each year is never a question.

"It's the town-wide Glorious Celebration. What else is there to do?" she laughed. "You kind of have to go. I think it's a requirement."

She cited the bicycle raffle as one of the unique and recurring features of the event. This year, organizers raffled off 20 bicycles each evening to children 12 or under.

Trowbridge said Colin won a bike two years ago. They were hoping Friday night that it would be his 10-year-old sister Hailey's turn to snag her own set of wheels.

One winning ticket went to Nicholas Dudek, a local 6-year-old, who walked away with a red

and black bike just his size.

His mom, Leanne Dudek, was still wearing her Glorious Gallup race bib as she helped Nicholas collect his prize.

"They really came to cheer me on because I was running, and he got a free bike out of it, which is awesome," she said.

The road race lured entrants from all over, some of whom were there to check East Hampton off their lists as part of the Run 169 Towns Society. The group was formed to support its members in finishing at least one race in every city and town in the state.

Charles Merlis, of West Hartford, had already completed his first round of 169 towns and was about 50 towns into his second round when he finished the Glorious Gallup with a time of 36:38.

The 77-year-old runner indicated he was generally satisfied with his performance, though he lamented his inability to get around one of the "young kids" he thought he'd be able to pass.

"He must've been 40, maybe," Merlis said.

Merlis, who wore a red-and-green tutu and butterfly wings, said he first put on the costume to celebrate reaching the 100-town milestone as part of the Run 169 Towns Society. Other members of the club have subsequently encour-

aged him to do it all the races, he said.

The Old Home Days parade, hailed by organizers as the longest parade in Middlesex County, was the headline event on the last day of the festivities. Numerous floats, antique vehicles, bands and community groups marched the 1.5 mile route from the high school to the Village Center.

The New London-based 7th Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps remained a crowd favorite as the energetic and captivating youth marching unit danced and played through the streets.

Collingwood described this year's Old Home Days event as a success. She credited a dedicated group of volunteers with making it happen.

"We're a small group with a big job," she said. "And many hands make light work."

She invited anyone interested in helping with next year's event to contact organizers through the East Hampton Old Home Days Facebook page.

She said volunteer roles range from planning various aspects of the fair – like entertainment, the soda booth or the road race – to helping with grounds management during the event itself.

"It's as big of a commitment as you want it to be," she said.

East Hampton Police News

7/4: After an investigation into a one-car motor vehicle crash on Middletown Avenue, at the intersection of Alden's Crossing, in which the operator of the vehicle had left the scene, Skylar O'Neil, 56, of 32 East Wolcott Ave., Windsor, was arrested for evading responsibility, failure to drive right, operating under the influence, interfering/resisting an officer and drinking while driving, East Hampton Police said.

7/6: During a routine traffic stop it was discovered that a passenger in the vehicle, Troy Roper, 47, of 58 Midwood Farm Rd., had an active warrant for his arrest. Roper was taken

into custody and charged with failure to appear for criminal violation of restraining order and violation of probation, police said.

7/9: Eric Rick, 29, of 88 Johnson Rd., Marlborough, was issued a summons for misuse of registration plate, operating under suspension, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, police said.

Also, from July 2-8, officers responded to 10 medical calls, four motor vehicle crashes and six alarms, and made 21 traffic stops, police said.

Portland Police News

7/7: Gent Daniels, 32, of 42 Townsend St., New Haven, was charged with operating under the influence, Portland Police said.

7/12: Anthony Zimmerman, 18, of 71 Free-stone Ave., was charged with risk of injury to a minor, police said.

Colchester Police News

7/13: State Police said Wayne M. Lapoint, 37, of 60 1/2 South 2nd Ave., Taftville, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive right.

7/14: State Police said Rakiese R. Mcfadden, 24, of 645 W. Main St., Meriden, was arrested and charged with first-degree larceny.

Motorcycle Collides with Deer in Colchester

State Police said a deer is the cause of a collision that occurred last Friday.

At approximately 4:37 a.m. a Harley-Davidson driven by Kevin Leyland, 64, of 17 Skylark Rd., was traveling south on Cato Corner Road when a deer ran out in front of the motorcycle. According to police, Leyland stated he could not avoid striking the deer.

Leyland was transported to Backus Hospital with suspected minor injuries, police said.

Hebron Police News

7/14: State Police said Michael D. Krawitz, 31, of 163 Old Stage Rd., Glastonbury, was arrested and charged with third-degree larceny for incidents dating back to January 2016.

Two-Vehicle Collision in Hebron, One with Suspected Injuries

Police said an improper turn is to blame for a two-vehicle crash last Friday.

At approximately 4:06 p.m., a Honda Civic driven by Hector W. Colon, 40, of 242 Church St., Apt. A1, Willimantic, was traveling eastbound on Route 66 near Millstream Road when a Subaru Forester traveling westbound on Route 66 and driven by Carolyn J. Beckers,

67, of 55 North Ct., Colchester made an improper left turn and subsequently struck by the Honda Civic.

According to police, Beckers was transported by Hebron Emergency Services to Marlborough Clinic with suspected minor injuries.

Slew of Break-Ins Reported in Marlborough

Resident State Trooper Jeff Dunshee is urging residents to be more vigilant after six break-ins have occurred over the last few weeks.

Dunshee told the *Rivereast* this week the majority of thefts have occurred in detached sheds or garages during the overnight hours, with stolen property including tools and fishing equipment.

The burglaries are as follows: June 29, burglary of a partially-attached West Road garage; June 2, burglary of a detached Park Road garage; June 5, theft from a parked truck on

Jones Hollow Road; June 10, burglary of a Flood Road detached shed; June 11, burglary of a detached shed on Johnson Road; June 12, larceny incident from a Highpoint Commons lawn.

Dunshee said he is "requesting people be a little more vigilant, lock up at night" and "report any suspicious people walking around overnight, as well as any parked vehicles."

He added that all incidents are currently under investigation and additional patrol coverage from Troop K has been requested for the town during the overnight hours.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Mary A. Simcik

Mary A. Simcik, 95, of New Britain, passed away peacefully Wednesday, July 11, at the Jerome Home in New Britain. She was the widow of John S. Simcik. Born in New Britain, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary (Bandurska) Kowalczyk.

Mary was a New Britain resident most of her life, and a former resident of Berlin and East Hampton. She was a member of St. Paul Church, the Ladies Guild at St. Paul Church, the Red Hat Society, and was formerly active at the YWCA in New Britain. Mary enjoyed being with people. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and enjoyed cooking, bingo, sewing and flowers.

Surviving are her children, John Simcik of Southington, Marsha Tallard and her husband Robert of Newington, Philip Simcik of New Britain, Gail Embacher and her husband William of East Hampton; a sister, Ceilia Kowalczyk of New Britain; a daughter-in-law, Christine Simcik; four grandchildren, Adam Simcik and his companion Melissa Lapent, Craig Simcik and his wife Erin, William J. Embacher II and his wife Heather, Brian Embacher and his fiancée Jaime Marland; and three great-grandchildren, Eleanor Simcik, Alexander Simcik and Audrey Embacher.

Mary was predeceased by a son, Paul Simcik; her twin brother, Joseph Kowalczyk; and by two sisters, Anna Lazicki and Agnes Simcik. The family of Mary would sincerely like to thank the Jerome Home for their compassionate and outstanding care that they provided to her.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, July 16, at St. Paul Church in Kensington. Burial was in St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Meriden. A calling hour was held Monday morning at Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home, 411 S. Main St., New Britain.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Paul School, 461 Alling St., Kensington, CT 06037 or to the Berlin Senior Center, 33 Colonial Dr., Berlin, CT 06037.

Share a memory of Mary with the family in the online guestbook at ericksonhansen.com.



Portland

Robert Del Russo Sr.

Robert "Bob" Louis Del Russo, Sr., 78, passed away peacefully Friday, July 13. Born in Waterbury Dec. 10, 1939, he was the son of the late Sam Del Russo Sr. and Irene (Priola) Pannone. He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, MaryAnn (Ferrucci) Del Russo with whom he lived in Portland and wintered in Bonita Springs, Fla.

Bob was co-owner and secretary/treasurer of The Waverly Printing Co. in Portland, retiring in 1998. An early innovator in four-color printing processes, The Waverly Printing Co. was known throughout New England for its high-quality corporate printing services. Bob was known for his personal work ethic, growing the company along with his father, brother and many dedicated employees. Bob also served as a trustee of Glastonbury Bank & Trust.

Bob graduated from Crosby High School in 1958, where he was a star football player and team captain, culminating in his participation in the 1st Connecticut All-Star East-West Nutmeg Bowl. His resulting nickname on the field and amongst friends was "Moose." During high school, Bob also served his country in the National Guard. He attended the University of Dayton and the University of Connecticut.

Later and outside of his business, Bob's interests included his commitment to land preservation in Connecticut and involvement with many charitable organizations personally and on behalf of the company. Bob and his brother, Sam, enjoyed hunting and fishing with friends locally and throughout North America. Bob was an avid golfer and member of several golf clubs including Clinton C.C. in Clinton, where he had a hole-in-one in 1996.

Besides his wife, Bob is survived by his son, Robert Louis Del Russo Jr. of Portland, CT; daughter, Pamela J. (Del Russo) Peterson and her husband Neil Peterson of Littleton, Mass.; two grandchildren, Cory and Jessica Leigh Peterson; his sister, Grace Klobedanz; two brothers-in-law, James and John Ferrucci; and several nieces and nephews.

Bob was predeceased by his beloved brother and sister-in-law Samuel C. and Celeste Del Russo.

Bob's family thanks the Portland Care & Rehabilitation Center for the exceptional care given. The funeral was held Tuesday, July 17, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St, Portland, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial will be at a later date in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions in Bob's memory may be made to the following organizations: St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480; Middlesex Hospital, Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457 or online: middlesexhospital.org/donate-now.



Marlborough

A. Douglas Thibodeau

A. Douglas Thibodeau, 79, of Marlborough, passed away peacefully at home Friday, July 13, surrounded by loving family and friends. Born Feb. 10, 1939, in St. John, Maine, he was the son of the late Adelard and Lottie (Plourde) Thibodeau.

He leaves his loving wife of 56 years, Nathalie (Duperry) Thibodeau; two children, Lana Kiernan of Colchester and Michael Thibodeau (and his wife Karin) of Amston; five grandchildren, Jenna and Sean Kiernan, Brendan Behrendt and Gavin and Dylan Thibodeau; three siblings, Joseph Thibodeau of East Hartford, Bernadette Teixeira and husband Kenneth of Ragland, Ala., and Mary Lavoie and her husband Thomas of South Windsor; and numerous extended family and friends; and the "favorite child" (you know who you are).

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his son-in-law, Joseph Kiernan; and three siblings, MaryAnn, Ronald and Thomas Thibodeau.

Doug served proudly with the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Plymouth Rock during the beginning of the Vietnam War and was a longtime member of the American Legion Post 197 in Marlborough. He was also a member of the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department for the past 50+ years and had volunteered as an EMT as well.

For many years, he was a well-known barber and owner of Doug's Barber and Styling Shop in Marlborough. After selling the barber shop business (that still bears his name), Doug went on to obtain his real estate sales and broker license, working locally as an agent for many years. He also became certified as a radon mitigator and started another business venture, A. Douglas Thibodeau, LLC – which will continue with his son, Michael, and grandson, Brendan.

Doug took great pride in his home and yard, especially the four-acre pond that he dug in the early 1980s. He was an avid card player and enjoyed vacationing in Ocean City, Md.

His greatest joy, however, was the love for his family and friends, to whom he was ever devoted.

Friends called Tuesday, July 17, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Wednesday, July 18, at St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough. Burial with military and fire department honors followed in Marlboro Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Road, Marlborough 06447 or to the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, 7 Hebron Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthy-funeralhome.com.



Hebron

Jean Raymond

Jean (Warner) Raymond, 94, lifelong resident of Hebron, widow of the late Donald E. Raymond, passed away Friday, July 13. Born June 25, 1924, in Hebron, she was the daughter of the late Norman and Mabel (Perry) Warner.

Mrs. Raymond had worked as a financial clerk for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for 20 years before her retirement and was active with the P&W Retirees Club. Jean was a life member of Gilead Congregational Church and had served as assistant treasurer for many years. She enjoyed tending to her beautiful flower gardens at home as well as researching family genealogy in her spare time.

She leaves two children and their spouses, William and Beverly Raymond of Vernon and Cynthia and Warren Thomas of Hebron; three grandchildren, Michael Raymond, Heather Thomas and Christopher Thomas; two great-grandchildren; her brother, Alden Warner of Hebron; and numerous extended family members.

In addition to her loving husband, she was predeceased by two brothers and three sisters.

The family received guests Wednesday, July 18, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. The memorial service will be observed at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 13, directly at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St. (Route 85), Hebron. Burial will follow in Gilead Cemetery, Hebron. Donations in her memory may be made to the church.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthy-funeralhome.com.



Hebron

Bertrand Guerrette



Bertrand Guerrette, 78, of Hebron, went home to his Eternal Father on July 15, 2018. He passed away at home with his loving wife of 55 years Barbara by his side after a long courageous cancer journey.

Bert was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend and will be greatly missed by all.

The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at All Saints Church, 25 School St., Somersville. The family will receive guests one hour prior to services directly at the church. He will be laid to rest at the Somers Center Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that flowers be omitted and a donation be made to your local food pantry.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthy-funeralhome.com.

Colchester

Elizabeth Sherman Falco



Elizabeth Sherman Falco, "Betty," lifelong resident of Colchester and beloved wife of Peter A. Falco, passed away Friday, July 13, at Yale-New Haven Hospital, at the age of 81. Born May 12, 1937, she was the daughter of the late Willard and Dorothea (Raymond) Sherman.

Betty was a 1955 graduate of Bacon Academy and went on to work in banking as a branch manager for the former Hartford National Bank and Glastonbury Bank & Trust. She was an avid golfer and had played with the mixed league at Chanticleir Golf Course in Colchester.

In addition to Pete, her best friend and husband of 61 years, she leaves numerous nieces and nephews, cousins, special neighbors and friends.

She was predeceased by her sister, Virginia "Ginny" Guarnaccia.

Services will be private and at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Colchester-Hayward Volunteer Fire Company, 18-54 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthy-funeralhome.com.

East Hampton

Elaine (Bloomquist) Barrows

Elaine (Bloomquist) Barrows, 74, of East Hampton, died Friday, July 13, at Middlesex Hospital surrounded by her family, after a short illness.

Born Jan. 28, 1944, in Middletown, she is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Robert Barrows, and her three children, Robert Barrows Jr. of Granby, Michael Barrows and his wife Christina of Middletown, and her daughter Jennifer Sullivan of Colchester. She also leaves behind her pride and joy, her five grandchildren, Griffin and Jake Barrows of Granby, Katy Kleindienst of Middletown, and Lindsey and Maddie Sullivan of Colchester. She also survived by her brothers- and sisters-in-law, Billy and Ann Barrows of Portland as well as Judy and Richard Lane of Portland.

Elaine loved taking many vacations with her husband; they would spend many weeks in Hawaii each year. She enjoyed gardening, watching the Red Sox and spending time with her family.

A memorial will be held Thursday, Aug. 2, from 5-8 p.m., at Laurel Ridge Clubhouse, 55 Laurel Ridge, East Hampton.

To leave online condolences, visit spencer-funeralhomeinc.com.



Marlborough

Stephen D. Gould

Stephen D. Gould, 51, of Middletown, formerly of Marlborough, died Friday, July 13, at Hartford Hospital. Born June 22, 1967, in Manchester, he was the beloved son of John C. and Ellen (Saunders) Gould of Marlborough.

Stephen was a graduate of RHAM High School in Hebron and was employed as a Marine Technician for Midway Marina in Haddam. Stephen enjoyed snowmobiling, and had a passion for boating and old cars.

Besides his parents, he is survived by his long-time girlfriend, Julie Chamberland of Middletown; his brother, David J. Gould of Middletown; his three aunts; and many close friends.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Tuesday, July 17. Burial was private in the family plot in New Hampshire.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Protectors of Animals, 144 Main St., Unit 0, East Hartford, CT 06118.

To leave online condolences, visit spencer-funeralhomeinc.com.

Obituaries continued

Amston

Eszter Julia Samodai

It is with profound sadness that we announce that Eszter Julia Samodai died of complications from colon cancer in the early morning of Thursday, July 5, at the age of 61 years old. Eszter was born in Danbury June 27, 1957, to Gyula Samodai and Elizabeth Kraikli Samodai.



Eszter grew up in Danbury and graduated from Danbury High School and Western Connecticut State College with a B.A. degree in earth sciences/biology and M.A. degree in oceanography/limnology. She was married to Christopher John Frey of Bedford, N.Y., for 26 years and had two boys, Trevor and Alexander.

Eszter was beautiful, bright, loving and born with an adventurous spirit. She had a passionate love for nature and traveled the world from an early age. She made her home in Amston and was a loving and ardent wife who adored her children above all. Eszter enjoyed traveling and visiting friends and family in foreign places, hiking in high mountains, and exploring ocean shores. She treasured exploring open spaces here in Connecticut and New England and discovering their hidden treasures offered by their trails and waterways.

Eszter was also a student of science and had a varied professional career, which included work as a meteorologist and forecaster for local radio stations, an Air Quality Analysts for TRC, Inc. and Environmental Risk Limited, LLC., Partner and Principal Scientist for Northern Engineering/Rojac Air Testing Services, Inc. and more lately as a lecturer and laboratory instructor at Manchester Community Technical College. Eszter was also an active member of the Hebron Democratic Town Committee and was vice chair of the Hebron Citizens Green Committee, volunteering her time for various environmental initiatives to better the quality of her community.

Eszter is survived by her children, Trevor Sebastian Frey and Alexander Justin Frey, and Husband Christopher John Frey, all of Amston; her sister, Elizabeth Wurdak of St. Cloud, Minn.; her brother, Istvan (Steven) Samodai of Salisbury, N.H.; and is predeceased by her father, Gyula Samodai and mother Elizabeth (nee Kraikli) Samodai of Danbury, Connecticut (and previously Budapest, Hungary); and her brother Gyula (Jules) Samodai of Montreal, Canada.

Contributions in Eszter's memory may be made to the Michael Canty Memorial Fund, a college scholarship program for high school graduates, honoring a cousin of Eszter's husband, whose life was lost on Sept. 11, 2001, at: c/o Ed and Kay Canty, 719 Hampton Ave., Schenectady, NY 12309.